

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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/069 W

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R 310056Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5415

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJECT: CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS SIGN SOLIDARITY PACT.

REF: MEXICO 10771

1. IN A MOVE OF WHICH THERE WAS NO PRIOR INDICATION, FOUR MEXICAN CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS SIGNED A "PACT OF OCAMPO" (COAHUILA) PLEDGING TO UNITE IN ONE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION. SIGNATORIES ARE THE NATIONAL PEASANTS CONFEDERATION (CNC), THE INDEPENDENT PEASANTS CENTRAL (CCI, NON-COMMUNIST FACTION), THE MEXICAN AGRARIAN COUNCIL (CAM), AND THE GENERAL UNION OF PEASANT WORKERS OF MEXICO - (JACINTO LOPEZ FACTION UGOCM).

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2. THE SALIENT POINTS OF THE PACT ARE:

(A) THE SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS SUBSCRIBE TO THE AGRARIAN POLICIES OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA;

(B) "PARTICIPATION AND AFFILIATION WITH THE CNC" IS THE "SINGULAR AND REQUISITE" STEP TOWARDS UNIFICATION OF MEXICAN CAMPESINOS; AND

(C) DESPITE (B) ABOVE, EACH ORGANIZATION WILL RETAIN ITS OWN IDENTITY.

3. THE PACT WAS SIGNED DEC 25 IN VILLA OCAMPO, COAHUILA, WHERE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SPENT CHRISTMAS IN A WORKING VISIT.

4. THE CNC, THE LARGEST AND OLDEST (A CREATION OF PRESIDENT LAZARO CARDENAS) CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION, IS VIRTUALLY SYNONYMOUS WITH THE AGRARIAN SECTOR OF THE REVOLUTIONARY INSTITUTIONAL PARTY (PRI).

5. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE THREE OTHER SIGNATORIES HAS BEEN FORMALLY WITHIN THE PRI FOLD BEFORE, ALL ARE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN, BUT ON THE FRINGES OF, THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT: ALFONSO GARZON AS CCI LEADER WAS ACTUALLY A PRI FEDERAL DEPUTY 1970-1973; THE CAM IS A SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE CCI AND HAS RECENTLY COLLABORATED WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS (PST) IN AGRARIAN MATTERS; THE UGOCM IS A SQUATTER - LAND INVASION MOVEMENT OF THE MID 1960'S, WHOSE ORIGINAL LEADER JACINTO LOPEZ SPLIT THE GROUP INTO TWO FACTIONS BY ASSOCIATING HIMSELF TOO CLOSELY WITH THE PRI.

6. SEVERAL OTHER MINOR AGRARIAN GROUPS DID NOT JOIN IN THE SOLIDARITY PACT. THESE INCLUDE THE CAMPESINOS HEADED BY CESAR DEL ANGEL WITHIN THE PST, THE UGOCM FACTION HEADED BY JESUS ORTA, THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNION, THE CAMPESINO ALLIANCE LAZARO CARDENAS, AND THE CCI (COMMUNIST FACTION), HEADED BY RAMON DANZOS PALOMINO, WHO WAS RELEASED FROM JAIL ON BAIL IN MID-NOVEMBER.

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7. COMMENT:

THE AGRARIAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE WEAKEST OF THE PRI'S THREE SECTORS, FOR NUMEROUS REASONS. ONE IS THE LOWER LEVEL OF EDUCATION AMONG CAMPESINOS; ANOTHER HAS BEEN ITS LEADERSHIP, WHICH HAS OWED ITS POSITION TO HIGHER AUTHORITY RATHER THAN TO GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT; A THIRD REASON HAS BEEN INTERNAL DIVISIONS. THE PACT OF

OCAMPO COULD, IF IT WERE TO RESULT IN GENUINE UNIFICATION, GO SOME WAY TOWARDS ELIMINATING THE LAST OF THESE THREE REASONS BUT IT OF COURSE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE FIRST. REGARDING THE SECOND, OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS THE EARMARKS OF OFFICIAL "COOPTATION"--ABSORPTION INTO THE GOM-PRI STRUCTURE OF OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP. THIS IMPRESSION IS SUPPORTED BY THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S AGRARIAN POLICY, THE LACK OF ANY PRIOR NEWS OF THE EVENT (SUGGESTING IT'S AN ACTION OF THE GROUP LEADERS ONLY), AND BY THE LANGUAGE OF THE PACT, WHOSE PROVISION FOR AFFILIATION OF THE THREE NON-PRI ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE CNC, WHILE RETAINING THEIR SEPARATE IDENTITIES, HAS THE RING OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO IT.

8. THE SOLIDARITY PACT, COINCIDING WITH GOM PLANS FOR MASSIVE INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY'S BADLY LAGGING RURAL SECTOR, AND WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS AND COLONIALIZATION (SEE REF) INTO A SECRETARIAT, SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE SAME CONTEXT WITH THESE OTHER TWO DEVELOPMENTS. THE GOM, SERIOUS ABOUT TACKLING THE RURAL PROBLEM IN MEXICO, HAS COMMITTED THE FUNDS, HAS MADE THE STRUCTURAL CHANGE IT FELT NECESSARY AND NOW HAS TAKEN THE POLITICAL STEP TO HELP CARRY OUT THE NEW POLICY. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PACT OF OCAMPO, IN OUR TENTATIVE JUDGMENT, IS THAT WHILE THE MEXICAN CAMPESINO IS GOING TO BENEFIT FROM THIS ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO TACKLE THE AGRARIAN PROBLEM, HE IS GOING TO BENEFIT IN WAYS WHICH ONLY THE GOM WILL DETERMINE.

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